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ALGERIA

PRC Trade Delegation Discusses Cooperation

LD211131 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT

21 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 21-3-85 (APS) — The works of the first session of the Algero-Chinese joint commission were sanctioned on Wednesday by the signature of a proceedings by Abdelaziz Khellef C.C. member, Minister of Trade and Zhang Jingfu, deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of China. This proceedings notably started the [words indistinct] of the two sides to find solutions to pending problems in the field of economic and financial cooperation, to reinforce this cooperation, to achieve some industrial projects and to use the available credits in order to widen this cooperation.

Concerning the commercial exchanges, they will be increased and diversified and 1985 will be characterized by the balance of economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries. The proceedings also expects the reinforcement of technical, scientific and cultural cooperation.

In the end, the two ministers expressed their satisfaction over the results of these works which show the aspirations of the two friendly countries and estimated that this meeting was an occasion to reinforce, by work, the secular friendship and cooperation links between the two countries.

LIBYA

AL-SAFIR Interviews Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi

NC211315 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Mar 85

pp 8, 9

[First of two parts of interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi by Talal Salman, with the participation of Muhammad Mashmushi, Sa'd Mahyu, Hassan Haydar, and Yasir Ni'mah; in Al-Qadhafi's tent in Libya — date not given]

[Text] AL-SAFIR: There is a problem facing all the Arab officials and leaders — learned people, journalists, writers, and politicians, of course. The problem can be summed up by saying that to regain Egypt, one must work with the Egyptians, specifically with the Egyptian nationalist and progressive forces which say that there is a difference between Al-Sadat's era and Mubarak's era and that the latter has given them a margin of freedom. The question is, how can one approach these forces away from the regime, especially in a country like Egypt where the state is something very big; that is, the state is actually ruling.

The real problem is that with Egypt's absence, a basic part of the active forces in the area is absent and idle and, indeed is employed to a certain extent on the other side. Work without Egypt is difficult, and work with it is impossible in the present circumstances. Regaining Egypt is difficult until further notice. In your assessment, how can this problem be resolved and how can we penetrate Egypt and regain it?

Al-Qadhafi: I do not believe that the forces present on the surface, and which have been given the legitimacy of action by the Egyptian regime, can rescue Egypt. On the contrary, they prolong the life of the regime because they counterbalance the regime. Just as Mubarak is giving the opposition legitimacy, the opposition is giving him the legitimacy of being an acceptable democratic and popular regime.

An opposition of this kind is dangerous because it prolongs the life of this vicious regime. When Al-Sadat created the opposition, he did so on this basis. It gave him legitimacy just as he had given it legitimacy. The regime gave the opposition legitimacy and it gave the regime the legitimacy of continued existence. After that, all the talk between them is of no importance and does not change anything in the regime, which is proceeding along its course.

The problem now is that Egypt does not need talk, opposition, or newspapers to rescue it; it needs a material factor. Egypt has mortgaged itself to the United States and Israel. Egypt waits for 3 months to receive U.S. wheat. Instead of Egypt exporting wheat, the open-door policy has paralyzed its production. Its resources have been paralyzed and its budget has become dependent on U.S. aid. This is the condition to which the United States is seeking to subject Egypt or any other state. The U.S. objective is to subjugate all the peoples.

The United States is seeking to be the representative of the globe. It even wants to eliminate the Soviet Union. It is seeking to be the only one. It is proceeding with the subjugation of the world, state by state. Egypt has fallen prey to this trend. Washington sought to bring Egypt to the stage where Egypt would need the United States. Egypt has actually reached this stage and it is now controlling Egypt as a puppet show. The United States is holding the strings and is manipulating Egypt up and down, to the right, to the left. Indeed, Egypt has reached this plateau. The United States will never elevate Egypt to such an extent that it could defeat the Israelis. The United States is hampering Egypt in such a way that it would not rearm itself from the Soviet Union. The United States can do anything with Egypt and it can hamper Egypt's war production at home, telling it: We will arm you, we are your friends.

For Egypt to reach the stage where it puts itself in U.S. hands as regards arms means that the United States is dictating its policy to Egypt and controlling it in such a way as not to generate any harm to the Israelis. If it gives Egypt arms, it guides it as it wants, possibly to fight Libya.

Incidentally, we have received a report from Egypt confirming how Mubarak is cooperating with the United States and is carrying out its wishes. The report speaks about directing a military blow to Libya. This was stated by his prime minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, to a person he believed to be hostile to us. When Hasan 'Ali learned from his foreign minister that the person is a friend of Al-Qadhafi, he was stunned, tried to circumvent what he had said, stating that war with Libya is useless and that there would be no winner or loser in it, etc.; but it was too late. That person had already heard from 'Ali that Mubarak is in the process of preparing something of this sort (a military blow).

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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Lusophone Information Ministers Begin Meeting*MB220551 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT
21 Mar 85*

[Text] The first meeting of information ministers of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries began in Maputo today. The meeting, attended by Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe was opened by Mozambican Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco.

The meeting will make a survey of technical and human resources available in each country, including communication facilities, and abroad as well as a survey of bilateral or multilateral cooperation already existing between the five countries. The heads and officials of information from the five countries will also identify the priority areas of cooperation at the level of new agencies, press, radio, television, and film, among others.

African Parliamentary Union Conference Opens*AB212100 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT
21 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] The eighth conference of the African Parliamentary Union was declared open this morning by the head of state, Abdou Diouf. The theme of the conference is development in Africa at the end of the 20th century.

In his opening address on the occasion, President Abdou Diouf said the topics of the session, which focus on development of technology, industrialization of Africa, as well as scientific and technical education in development, are linked to the (?practice) of democracy on the continent.

Franc Zone Finance Ministers To Meet in Niamey*AB202150 Paris AFP in French 1229 GMT 20 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] Niamey, 20 Mar (AFP) — The 43d meeting of the ministers of economy and finance of the franc zone member-states is scheduled to take place in Niamey on 28 March, a governmental source disclosed yesterday in the Niger capital.

The meeting, which will be preceded by a working session held by experts of the member-states, will enable an exchange of views on the economic situation in the various countries of the franc zone, the same source said. It will also enable the member-countries to harmonize their positions in view of the meetings to be held with the provisional committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Development Committee of the World Bank, which are expected to take place in April, the same source added.

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However, now that the Egyptian regime has placed its fate in its hands, the United States is controlling it from the military standpoint. It is arming Egypt to such a degree that it can only harass Libya or any other Arab country, but always to a degree much weaker than that of the Israelis.

The same thing applies to the economic aspect as well. The United States is turning Egypt into a consumer market for American commodities, which is hampering Egypt's production. It has made the people quit production and agriculture and in other areas, and turn into brokers and bidders, and offering services. However, how do the needy benefit from hotels? What is the advantage of huge automobiles to the Egyptian people? Who uses these automobiles? Even the morsel of food is now in U.S. hands.

Therefore, the question does not need opposition and newspapers as much as it needs a material factor that will end Egypt's subservience to the United States. It is real imperialism; the United States has in effect colonized Egypt since the latter is now completely in U.S. hands. Consequently, the present opposition is benefiting the regime and is not doing anything else. Thus reliance should not be on the people who are on the surface now, but on other unknown rejectionist forces who are really known. These forces are not found in the chorus of the current opposition. There should either be a military strike against the regime or a popular rebellion manifested in demonstrations, sit-ins, civil disobedience, and insubordination. The situation will collapse as happened in Iran. Nothing else will rescue Egypt. Egypt is daily giving 40,000 barrels of oil to Israel in addition to chemicals and iron. Israel in turn is using these to make bombs and as fuel for its planes, which are bombarding Lebanon, and for the tanks which are trampling down families in southern Lebanon. The fuel used is Egyptian since Israel is receiving 40,000 barrels of Egyptian oil daily.

Moreover, normalization is proceeding excellently in terms of tourism and trade. It is sufficient to give culture as an example. Israel has recently participated in the book fair. I have also read a report which says that the conditions which prevailed in the seventies have ended and that in Egypt there is no longer that hostile spirit toward the Israelis.

Mubarak is continuing along this course. The Arab countries, which are flirting with him and breaking the boycott around him, are actually encouraging him to continue along this course. This is not right. The best means is by continuing the boycott. But be sure something will appear from people totally different from those we know.

AL-SAFIR: But there is the Nasirite Party which had been put on trial and which is expected to be sentenced on 23 March?

Al-Qadhdhafi: He is also employing Nasirism to serve the regime. The worst thing is that Nasirism should be among the components which complement the fascist regime in Egypt and among the groups over which the Israeli flag was raised. It has also accepted Israel and recognized its legitimacy. In the past when Nasirism was banned, the situation was better; but now, when the Nasirites have become a party and part of the opposition, it means that they have become a party to the game, and

this is not good. The last thing that should have happened is for Nasirism to be employed in Israel's interest. This is an exploitation of 'Abd al-Nasir's name. 'Abd al-Nasir did not believe in parties. We, the Arab Nasirites, refuse to join this party because, if we do, it means that we have recognized Husni Mubarak's regime and Israel. This is impossible. There is not a real Nasirite who accepts that Nasirism should give legitimacy to Mubarak's regime, which has recognized Israel.

AL-SAFIR: This means that you want complete estrangement with the regime and that pressure be put on it by the national forces from inside and outside?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is true. I am sure that there are very extremist groups who will punish anyone who extends his hand to Husni Mubarak's regime. For example, any prince or oil shaykh who comes to Egypt with the aim of visiting or investing money will pay the price, I am sure. Extremist people will appear who will impose a siege. There will also be threats to the Arabs who join hands with Mubarak.

AL-SAFIR: There are other forces that can be considered as having an influence on the Egyptian man in the street — the religious current, the nationalist current, the traditional Egyptian national movement among whose symbols, for example, is the people's party, which you have called the current Egyptian folklore. In the course of what you have said, can the religious current, which proved itself and its effectiveness by executing Al-Sadat, arrive at the same stance of estrangement with the regime? In other words, can a kind of secret rapprochement be created in the future between the nationalist forces and the religious forces to form a nucleus for a movement of change in Egypt?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is possible. This is a possibility I expect. Husni Mubarak has humiliated Egypt by throwing himself in America's lap to this degree, particularly by his recent visit to the United States. He has greatly insulted Egypt and the Egyptian people. He was received by the U.S. deputy secretary of state, but 3 days passed before he was received by the U.S. President, who crossed his legs and said: I do not approve of your initiative. What did he gain from this? He has harmed Egypt's reputation.

In fact I sent letters to the Arab rulers after Mubarak's visit in which I said: After throwing ourselves into the United States' lap for such a long time, and after our oil poured into the United States and enriched its economic and capitalist establishments, as well as enriched the American banks with Arab money — after all this time, we now come and ask the United States to approve an Arab delegation that includes Palestinians. It refuses because the Palestinian is banned, as far as the United States is concerned, and meeting with him is forbidden. What has the Palestinian done to be regarded by the United States — the superpower hostile to the Palestinian people — as an outcast. The Palestinian people have been driven out of their land and are now being hunted down outside their land. They live in camps after having been displaced. How can they be criminals? Who is the criminal? The one who owns the missile and the plane and is mowing down defenseless people? Or the Palestinian refugees?

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I am telling them: Have you no shame? However, I am against taking this cause to the United States. It is not our patron, nor is it the world's policeman. To hell with the United States. The issue will only be solved on Arab soil, in Palestine, and with our own efforts. I am against the visit to the United States, against this disgraceful attitude, and against referring the issue to the United States, or discussing it with it. In fact, I do not give a damn whether the United States agrees or not.

What if the United States agrees to a Palestinian delegation? Would this mean that the Palestinian problem is solved? The Palestinian problem should be solved here in the area.

I, for my part, reject this attitude. However, those who believe in it have come down to this level. There are still Arabs who go to the United States and make requests.

I am saying to them: Please, for a day, let the Arabs have some dignity and say: We no longer need you, United States. You are boycotting the Palestinians and we vow to boycott anything that has to do with you — American cars, goods, friendship, etc.

The Americans think they should not meet the Palestinians. What is the crime of the Palestinians? What did they do to the United States? The Palestinian, is he a Hitler? He is the victim of what Hitler has done. Now is the time for the world to sympathize with the Palestinians. Now it is the Israelis who are strong and murderous and who are out to kill and destroy.

Would not the Arabs for once keep their dignity and say to the Americans: We have given you money, licked your boots, told you that one of our peoples is suffering, and asked you to meet with it, and you refused and treated it as a pariah.

Would not they stand up for themselves for once and divorce the United States for good. I am telling them: Unless you do this, I who am already blacklisted and branded as an international terrorist, swear by Almighty God that I will take it upon myself to thwart this defeatism and make the Arabs dignified for once. By God Almighty, I will take up my responsibility and start terrorism against Arab rulers. I will threaten and terrify them. I will sever relations and sever their heads one by one, if I can. I am a terrorist when the dignity of this people is at stake.

Damascus Meeting

AL-SAFIR: There have been talks about a meeting for the steadfastness and confrontation front in Damascus on 20 March.

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, it is not a meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation front, but to discuss the unity I am proposing. There should be a ready unity between the Arab countries. The idea is currently being discussed with Algeria, Syria, and the PDRY.

The 20 March meeting is to sketch a blueprint for unity among those countries, in addition to the Arab-African union between Libya and Morocco.

AL-SAFIR: Will Algeria take part in the meeting?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, it agreed to take part.

AL-SAFIR: Will it join the union?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Algeria said it is ready for a merger with Libya.

The Tripoli Meeting

AL-SAFIR: Would any Palestinians attend the Damascus meeting?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, it is for states only. However, on 28 March the pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces will hold a meeting and some Arab quarters have backed this cause and will be invited to attend the command's meeting in Tripoli.

AL-SAFIR: This command, as we understand it, will include, besides you, Palestinian groups, militant Lebanese groups, and other Arabs. Considering the diversity involved, do you think that such a command can grow into a revolutionary political entity? Do you believe that these groups can melt together well enough to act within a unified political program?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have to take this initiative to confront the deteriorating Arab situation. Let us hope for the best.

AL-SAFIR: Does this mean that you are going on parallel lines, one on the state level and one on the level of the revolutionary forces?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The states are moving toward unity. While the revolutionary forces in the Arab world are gathering under a pan-Arab command to continue the struggle, the battle is no longer between the Lebanese national democratic movement on the one hand and the United States and Israel on the other. It is not a battle between "Amal" and the Israelis; between Libya and the United States, as in the Gulf of Sidra; between Aden and the United States, or between Syria and Israel. No, let it be clear that the battle is between the revolutionary forces in the Arab world and the United States.

AL-SAFIR: Stressing the pan-Arab character of the battle!

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, all these revolutionary forces are taking part in whichever battle and on whichever front that will conclude the battle in favor of the Arab cause. The enemies should be made to understand that they are not fighting us separately. They have to know that they are fighting one people whose revolutionary forces are operating under a unified command, and that fighting any one of these forces will be fighting them all, and that this is what they have to base their calculations upon. So long as the Arab governments are incapable of managing a collective defense of the Arab world, the revolutionary forces should take the initiative and form a collective defense for the Arab people.

AL-SAFIR: According to our information, King Hassan II will be in Tripoli on 28 March.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think that Hassan II will be in Tripoli at that time. His visit may take place earlier.

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AL-SAFIR: How can we fit together such matters as the quest for [Libya's] immediate merger with Syria, Algeria, and the PDRY, its union with Morocco, and the pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces is a separate issue. It is neither official nor related to countries. The other matters have to do with countries. Libya and Morocco are members of a union whose treaty allows them to unite or merge with a third country that may also join the original union.

Moroccan Forces ... and the Union

AL-SAFIR: Supposing Moroccan opposition took part in the pan-Arab command, would there not be a contradiction?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If it is to fight the Israelis, I do not think any objection will be raised. But Libya now does not allow fighting or conspiring against Hassan II. We do not accept or participate in any action against Hassan II after he has put his hand in ours and signed the union treaty with us. He has launched a union with us that self-proclaimed progressive revolutionaries have failed to launch. We will not back up and must not encourage anyone against him. Nevertheless, social interaction in Morocco, as in Libya, is left to the Libyans and to the Moroccans themselves. If Moroccans want to change their system, we will not veto them. If the farmers and workers there won their freedom and became partners, it is their right — he who hires a car may keep it, and he who rents a house may own it. Such are internal developments, the same as in Libya. What interests us is our union.

AL-SAFIR: How far has the practical implementation of the Libyan-Moroccan union gone?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is moving ahead. During the past phase we have made the laws and regulations. What remains is to create the institutions. The federal board, the federal secretary, and the presidential council have all been formed, and a federal tribunal will also be set up. I am hoping that the map can be changed and that the door may be opened for a unity that allows for differences. Take the Soviet Union for example. Different languages, different nationalities, and different continents, and still a federation evolved. What brought them together is common ideology, the Marxist-Leninism. Every Soviet oblast, every republic, is a true replica of the other oblasts and republics. This similarity can be seen all the way up to the Soviet Presidium. The same thing is true in Yugoslavia. On the one hand, we find the same diversity of languages, nationalities, and religions. On the other hand, we find the Yugoslav League of Communists.

We come to the Arab homeland and find the situation completely reversed. There are different economic and political — ideological — systems. There are monarchial, republican, jamahiri, sultanate, socialist, and capitalist systems. However, on the other side of the coin we find one people, one nation, one history, and a common fate. I am trying to benefit from the other side of the coin vis-a-vis other states hoping to realize unity. They ask us how we can realize unity among Arab states with conflicting systems. We say: Well, there are many basic things in common

among these states. There exists one people, one nation, and one language. We say, for example, that different ethnics and languages were able to form one state in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The answer is that something else, ideology, united them. The same is true among the Arabs. Their conflicting states can unite because they are one people, one religion, etc.

Federated State

AL-SAFIR: Will the economic basis for this be economic integration, for example, and common interests in addition to Arab affiliation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We believe that it is possible to establish a federated Arab state that will be able to realize Arab national interests — defense of the Arab homeland, pan-Arab investment of Arab resources, and defining the Arab personality at the international level as a single entity that speaks one language to the world. However, each state will have the freedom to choose its own system. One might be a monarchy, one an emirate, and one republican. We are not concerned with internal interactions. This state is a member of the union and it has a republican system. Suppose there is a coup in it and it becomes a monarchist system. What interests us is that it remains a member of the union. They have made that state a monarchy, let them make it a monarchy. This is something that concerns that particular state. Another monarchist state in the union might change into a republican or a jamahiri one. This, too, concerns its own people; but what interests us is its membership in the union.

If we reach this formula, then the Arab countries will be assured that they can unite with each other without some condition existing for changing their systems. What we had wanted was an ideal — that these systems change to become a replica of the original [tibqa al-asl]. But after having taken a step in this direction, we have found that these various systems will not become replicas of the original even if they change. There was a revolution in Aden. There were revolutions in Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, and Algeria. But we still have conflicting systems; that is, new and progressive but regional ones. This is no different from the status that existed when that state was ruled by a king, another by an emir, and a third by an imam. Has there not been a revolution in Sanaa and another one in Aden? Are they not still conflicting systems? It is the same as if an imam is ruling here and the English are ruling there. Hence, a revolution might not lead to a solution. This is not guaranteed. There have been revolutions in some Arab countries, but they have not united. Wrangling and conflicts began between them. We are opening a door for a possible union among Arab states with conflicting systems without a prior condition existing for changing their systems.

AL-SAFIR: Like an Arab league?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No. Union, not an Arab league. A real federated state is established that will issue unified executive decisions. The Arab League does not issue executive decisions within each country.

AL-SAFIR: That is, gradually a single state?

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Al-Qadhdhafi: What is important is that a union is established among the Arab states without being dependent on changes in individual systems. This should be left to the people of each state — whether they want it to be a monarchy, or a republic, or a jamahiriyah, or a sultanate. This option must be chosen in light of current developments; otherwise, the Arab nation itself will face the danger of breaking into small nations. The reason for thinking about the Balkanization of the Arab homeland is the lack of a trend toward unity. Every state is changing into a nation. A recently issued analysis said that the state is gaining ascendancy over the nation in the Arab homeland.

AL-SAFIR: Is it not more logical that this practical unionist concept should exist between Libya and Syria and not between Libya and Morocco?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We used to believe in this logic. We have repeatedly proposed this unity. When Algeria objected to our establishing a union with Morocco without them, we told them: We reached Oujda through Jarbah (in Tunisia) and through Hassi Messaoud. In fact, I did not reach Oujda except through Jarbah which is nearer to me. I said: Let us have unity and we signed [the Jarbah declaration]. I then went to Algeria. It is a progressive country and similar to us, etc. I signed a union with them in Hassi Messaoud. They rejected unity for 15 years. When Hassan extended his hand to establishing union was I to tell him: No, let us wait until Algeria wakes up and joins a union with us. I do not want to impede unity for the sake of one country which has refused unity. We should have achieved unity between us and Syria a long time ago. The first unity we had was with Syria, the Union of Arab Republics. We have been proposing a union between the two countries since the 11th anniversary of the [Libyan] revolution. We cannot impede unity. But as to him who came to the striving earnestly, of him wast thou unmindful. [Koranic verse] You should respond to the one who seeks you.

AL-SAFIR: Will Saudi Arabia join such a union?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In my opinion, there must be an Arab union involving all conflicting views. Let us leave Saudi Arabia to the Saudis; if they want to alter their regime, they are free to do so. What concerns us is that Saudi Arabia be in the union. If the Libyans want to change their regime, they are free to do so. What concerns us is Libya's membership in the union. Similarly, the Sudanese, Tunisians, Iraqis, and Moroccans are all free to change their regimes if they wish. What we want is to have them in the union. The changes should be internal.

AL-SAFIR: Beyond the moral effects of union membership, what about material effects; how would these be implemented on the ground?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Just as in any other federal state. Its resources, potentials, and efforts should be unified. This should be reflected in all areas and not merely in specific fields.

The Sudanese Regime

AL-SAFIR: When will the regime in Sudan fall?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It has already fallen. I am sure you've heard of

recent events there. For our part, we prefer not to say anything about Sudan at present, because every word we say is being exploited. The Sudanese regime sometimes takes a sound step, but when we say that this is true, it says no, simply because Al-Qadhdhafi said it had.

AL-SAFIR: Is it true you offered to give Numayri money, as he said?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I swear that at that moment, and from a purely Arab point of view, I disregarded my dispute with Numayri and with Sudan. What is the difference between Sudan and Libya, after all? Motivated by a purely Arab stand, I was provoked when the United States cut its aid to Sudan because it did not approve of the situation in Sudan or of Numayri's measures, and felt that Sudan should be punished. This really provoked me. Despite the regime in Sudan, I said: May evil befall the United States. I told Sudan: I can give you millions without any humiliation. Despite the problems that exist between us, we still oppose the humiliation of others. I don't want a foreign state to humiliate an Arab state, even if I differ with the latter. This prompted the United States to change its stand the next day. The United States then said that it had not cut its aid, and so did West Germany. Numayri, however, said something about money in exchange for turning over "stray dogs." This was a base action. I never offered money in return for the "stray dogs." Who are these dogs? No one opposes me. I am not the head of a party, or the president of a republic, or a prime minister, who can be replaced. He who opposes our political regime will be opposing the people's congresses and committees. He will be opposing 3,000 congresses. In other words, he will be opposing all of the Libyan people. The Libyans are aware that he who opposes the political regime will be opposing them. In other words, he will be nullifying all of the congresses and committees. If I were the ruler, then one who opposed me could come and say that he opposes Al-Qadhdhafi. But, as far as I am concerned, I can leave Libya at any time, for I have nothing to do with authority.

The Resistance in the South

AL-SAFIR: Syrian-Libyan relations are having a strong impact in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas. How could these relations help to create new Palestinian resistance, and how could the relations between Syria and Libya have positive effects on the situation in Lebanon, on both the official and popular levels?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Actually, the confrontation and combat operations there depend upon Syria and Libya. However, Syria's situation does not permit us to ask for whatever we want from it. We cannot ask Syria to do what it is supposed to do. Still, our unified stand and the unity in Syrian-Libyan action are the basis for the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance. Had Syria's situation been different, we would have asked it to do more. Thus, the brunt of the burden falls on Libya's shoulders, as it is in a different situation.

AL-SAFIR: Is Syria being subjected to a blockade?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally. We must not risk rendering the situation affecting Syria any worse.

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Regional Groups and Comprehensive Unity

AL-SAFIR: You have declared support for the creation of Arab regional groups such as the GCC, the great Arab Maghreb, and Egypt and Sudan. Doesn't that run counter to the concept of comprehensive Arab unity?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, all of them seek to bring the day of a comprehensive union closer. It is better to have four Arab states than to have 20, because these four states can more easily agree in the future to form a federation.

AL-SAFIR: In the Arab Gulf today there can be seen the dangerous emergence of what could be termed "Gulf nationalism." Slogans, songs, all are about the Gulf, always the Gulf... In any event, there is no council, no cooperation, and relations among Gulf countries are characterized every day by a battle over an inch of sand.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The fact is that the Iraqi-Iranian war has strengthened pan-Arab feeling in the region and has rendered the Gulf area more in need of the Arab nation than ever before. I talked to the Kuwaitis and I told their foreign minister: You have become national unionists. He said: No, we are bedouins and the original Arabs. I said: But this was not the case before, when we talked about Arab nationalism and Arab unity. Thanks be to God, to the Iranian Revolution, and to Khomeyni, who rendered you national unionists. My opinion is that there is a benefit to be derived from this war, for it has strengthened the pan-Arab feeling. I call upon the GCC to become a federal state, to fill the vacuum and to permit the region to defend itself. This is what I have proposed to them.

AL-SAFIR: Yet the differences continue.

Al-Qadhdhafi: They have no choice but unity, because they are in danger. The entire Arab nation is in danger, particularly the Gulf. They have no choice but to unite or to strengthen the GCC and turn it into a state, etc. Otherwise, they can be swallowed one by one by anyone who travels through the area.

The Gulf War

AL-SAFIR: The Gulf war has almost finished its 5th year. This war of attrition has almost finished off both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. Is there a possibility of ending this war? What is the role to be played by Jamahiriya in that respect? Will continued war negatively affect relations between the Jamahiriya and Iran?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't believe that there is a possibility of ending the war. We would have already exploited this possibility had it existed. There is no longer any possibility of ending it. First, Iran refuses to stop the war. It won't talk about the subject and is determined to pursue it to the end. The war has also served a number of purposes, including the creation of financial straits among the Gulf states that have burned up all of their funds. The United States, the socialist countries, France, Brazil, and Argentina have all benefited from the sale of weapons. All of the world's countries are benefiting from this war, each in its own way and on the basis of its own interests. The countries selling weapons do not want the war to end. France, for example, has become a

war merchant, now benefiting from a brisk market. The super-powers are testing new weapons. Those who want to weaken Iran and prevent it from becoming a major power are encouraging this war, as are those who want to destroy Iraq's strength and prevent the existence of a second reserve force in the Arab region that could be used against the Israelis someday. Each party has an interest. In addition to that, the United States does not want Iran to be strong and revolutionary and to spread its effects through the region, or to see its suicidal fedayeen action reach Jerusalem and Palestine. Neither does it want it to be so weak that the Soviet Union could penetrate to warm waters through it. This means that each of the big powers is managing affairs just as it wishes. Naturally, this has its effects on the oil market and on the black market in weapons. Those who sell weapons and cannot sell them directly to Iran are offering them on the black market, knowing that someone will snap them up quickly.

Relations With Iran

AL-SAFIR: What about relations between Iran and the Jamahiriya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In fact, I used to incite the Iranians to act against the shah. I cannot betray this revolution. Iran was opposed to the Arabs and Palestine and was allied with the Israelis and South Africa. Even worse, Iran was a zone of U.S. influence. The revolution rescued Iran from all of these ordeals and caused it to side with the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation and to oppose imperialism. It is not possible for anyone to betray this revolution. This is fundamental. We used to incite the Iranians to act against the shah. All of the Arabs were silent, because they were being bribed by the shah. Even Saddam Husayn signed a document with the shah by which he conceded sovereignty over Shatt Al-'Arab. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto told me that when he visited the shah he asked him about the situation in Iran. The shah told Bhutto: Go and ask your friend Al-Qadhdhafi. The shah said: It is Al-Qadhdhafi who is behind the bombings and it is he who creates problems for me by instigating the Iranians against me, using his radio. I have met with Iranians who were in prison. They told me that they used to listen to my speeches. We cannot betray the Iranian Revolution.

The New Soviet Leadership

AL-SAFIR: Gorbachev is the new Soviet leader. What are your expectations as to his action's toward the Arab area, his views of Soviet-Libyan relations, and his policies toward the tense international situation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't think that there will be any changes in the Soviet stand on the Arab and international situations. Soviet policy is firm, regardless of changes in leadership.

AL-SAFIR: But when Andropov came to power there was strong Soviet support for the Arab cause, particularly Syria.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't think there will be any changes. The Soviet stand is not that of Brezhnev, or Andropov, or Chernenko, or Gorbachev; it is that of the Soviet Union. All Soviet leaders pursue the same position. It is not a question of individuals.

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AL-SAFIR: What about your relations with France?

Al-Qadhdhafi: They are good.

AL-SAFIR: Did you meet with President Mitterrand in Morocco?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, I met him in Crete for the first time.

AL-SAFIR: It has been said that you held a secret meeting in Morocco.

Al-Qadhdhafi (interrupting): No. First of all, I refuse to hold secret meetings. It is not true that this happened, because I reject secret meetings or negotiations. We are not thugs. King Hassan proposed that we meet in France or Malta to discuss the question of unity. I told him that it would not be appropriate for us to sign an accord on Arab unity in a foreign country. Is our land occupied? If you cannot come to Libya, I can go to Morocco. I proposed that we hold the meeting in Oujda. He even proposed that the meeting be secret. I said no; if we have to meet we should do it publicly. I do not meet secretly with any head of state. Al-Sadat went secretly to Moscow and he announced it only when he returned.

AL-SAFIR: What are the developments in the Chadian situation, following the French troops' withdrawal and the escalation of the opposition?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Habre will certainly fall.

Aid to Lebanon

AL-SAFIR: One last question about Lebanon. A part of Lebanese territory has been liberated. The rest will presumably also be liberated.

Lebanon is currently suffering from a state of famine. This is more dangerous and uglier than predicted. The economic situation has completely paralyzed the country, reaching a state of genuine famine.

Frankly, the Lebanese believe that the Arabs have dissociated themselves from the Lebanese crisis while the Lebanese are waging the most honorable pan-Arab battle. The Lebanese believe that the Arabs do not consider the Lebanese issue a cause for pan-Arab commitment.

Why doesn't the Jamahiriya, and why don't you personally, take the initiative and call for collective Arab action for Lebanon, similar to the Marshal plan, to rebuild the country and the south, particularly?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is the duty of all Arabs. We are thinking about it here in the Jamahiriya. The liberation of the south is a top priority. We provide weapons and train people. We are following the course of the battle for liberation every day.

Our primary task is to deal blows to the Israelis. However, it will certainly be necessary to propose such an initiative when the Israelis are finally expelled from the south.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Lebanese President's Envoys
LD212041 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA) — This evening the leader of the revolution received Colonel Simon Qassis and brother Milad al-Farih, envoys of the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Sudanese Rebels
LD211846 Tripoli JANA in English 0914 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jumada Thani, 21 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese revolutionary force declared its affiliation to the Nationalist Command of the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland. This was announced in a cable the Sudanese revolutionary force sent to the leader of the revolution.

The Sudanese revolutionary force said in its cable: "Your declaration with regards to the formation of the Nationalist Command at this serious turning point in our Arab nation's history, is considered an important pointer around which all faithful revolutionaries and honorable people of our Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf will meet to stop the continuous bleeding of the Arab nation's body".

Official Receives Moroccan Commerce Minister
LD211748 Tripoli JANA in English 1518 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jumada Thani, 21 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee received this morning Azzedine Guessous, the Moroccan trade, industry and tourism minister, currently visiting the Jamahiriya. The two sides discussed existing relations between the two sisterly countries and the backing of socio-economic cooperation, in implementation of the Oujda Arab-African Union Treaty between Morocco and Libya.

Moroccan Delegation Ends Visit
LD212057 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA) — Azzedine Guessous, the Moroccan minister of commerce, industry and tourism, and an accompanying delegation, left Tripoli this evening at the end of a 4-day visit to the Jamahiriya.

Guessous told a JANA correspondent that the meetings and talks he conducted during his visit were fruitful and constructive, and embodied the strong will of the Libyan Arab and the Moroccan people for comprehensive unity and economic integration.

He said that an agreement was reached to set up a holding company which will be entrusted with the task of implementing joint economic projects, marketing the products of the two countries and promoting trade exchanges. He added that we also reviewed the importance of the application of the provisions of the two customs agreements concluded between the two fraternal countries.